

CHAPTER 3 - AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

use comprises approximately 10 percent of the total recreation visits to the Monument. Special recreation permits increased in the Escalante Canyons from 11 in 1990 to 26 in 1994. Outfitter and guide permitted use areas are shown on Map 3.8. Table 3.7 includes a list of the numbers and types of outfitters operating in 1997.

Table 3.7
Outfitters Operating in 1997

Mountain Bicycle Outfitters	2
Backpacker (Overnight) Outfitters	22
Climbing Outfitter	1
Fishing Outfitters	2
Big Game Hunting Outfitters	10
Hiking/Walking (Day) Outfitters	5
Horseback Riding Outfitters	5
Llama Pack Trip Outfitter	1
Scenic Viewing Road Tours Outfitter	2
Viewing Cultural Sites Outfitter	1
Competitive event - the Outlaw Trail Ride	1

In addition, there have been over 50 new inquiries for commercial operations within

the Monument. Interim policy, established in January of 1998, determined that new permits will only be issued for one time events that do not exceed 14 days, are not surface disturbing, and do not violate Monument resources. This will be in effect until the Monument Management Plan is completed. In addition, group size in Wilderness Study Areas is limited to 12 people, including guide(s), and no more than 12 pack animals.

Currently, a Memorandum of Understanding between BLM and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area provides for administration of recreation use within the Escalante River canyon system from the town of Escalante to Lake Powell. The purpose of this agreement is to coordinate and promote the effective management of use on the Escalante River canyon system.

VISITOR FACILITIES

For the following discussion, facilities are defined as any structures built to serve a particular purpose. There are no existing BLM facilities associated with the Monument that support field work, museum curation, or laboratory preparation and analysis of scientific materials.

Currently, the Monument has administrative offices located in Escalante and Kanab. Visitor information centers are co-located in these

offices, and interpretive associations operate sales centers in them through cooperative agreements. The Paria Contact Station is a visitor information site, located east of Kanab on Highway 89. The Monument also has a visitor contact area inside the Anasazi State Park Visitor Center in Boulder, Utah.

In addition to visitor contact facilities, several other types of “developed” sites exist within the Monument. These include 2 small campgrounds (Calf Creek and Deer Creek), 4 historic sites, 3 picnic areas, 5 scenic overlooks along Highway 12, and 22 trailheads. There is also limited signing at intersections of main roads and at trailheads. For a detailed description of these facilities, refer to Appendix 21.

LAND USE PERMITS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

Agency policy has been for the BLM to allow most uses, as long as resources are not negatively impacted. This has usually required some kind of land use permit and review of the proposed use. The land use permits are monitored by BLM personnel for compliance with their terms and conditions. Most land use permits are issued under authorization of Title III of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.